



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

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TUCSON COUPLE INDICTED FOR BANKRUPTCY FRAUD

TUCSON, Ariz. -- A federal grand jury here returned a ten-count indictment yesterday against Mark Fillmore Chisholm, 38, and Maryanne Chisholm, 39, both of Tucson, Ariz. The indictment alleges that the Chisholms purchased three paintings ("Spring" and "Summer" by Henrietta Rae and "Faun and Bacchante" by William Adolphe Bouguereau) for \$480,000 from an art gallery in Los Angeles in the spring of 2000. The purchase price was charged to Mark Chisholm's American Express card. On October 31, 2000, the Chisholms filed for bankruptcy in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Tucson, Ariz. The indictment further alleges that the Chisholms concealed their ownership of the paintings from the Bankruptcy Court and filed false statements with the Bankruptcy Court regarding their assets.

The federal indictment charges Mark and Maryanne Chisholm with Concealment of Assets in Bankruptcy, False Declarations in Bankruptcy and Wire Fraud, in violation of Title 18 U.S. Code, Sections 152(1), 152(3), and 1343. In addition, Maryanne Chisholm is charged with False Oath in Bankruptcy, in violation of Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 152(2).

A conviction for each of the offenses carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Trustee's Office in Phoenix. The prosecution is being handled by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz..

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